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## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Minsk/South Airfield

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1. The commercial airfield about 1,700 feet south of MINSK ( $27^{\circ}34' E/53^{\circ}54' N$ ) and east of the road to Slutsk had a 6,600-foot runway. 25X1
2. A hangar with workshop annexes was still under construction. A four-story administration building with radio station, a DF and a transformer station, and a fuel dump of 15 tanks, 10 x 50 feet, were also available.
3. The field was occupied by about 20 twin-engine Douglas aircraft and 30 biplanes.
4. There was intensive flying. Air lines were operated to WARSAW, BERLIN, Kaliningrad, MOSCOW, KIEV, SMOLENSK and RIGA.

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5. The airfield located south of MINSK was used by commercial aircraft, even at night. The field was also occupied by a fighter unit practicing formation flying in formations of up to five in addition to night flying, which was done in connection with searchlight practice. The landing gear of the aircraft retracted inward, their wings were set at about the middle of the fuselage and were shaped as shown below:

Form of wings:



6. a. There was a commercial field south of the MINSK freight station. A hangar (330 x 200 x 25 feet) was under construction on the northern side of the field. A taxiway extended from the hangar to the west. A concrete aircraft dispersal area was west of the field.

6. b. A new settlement comprised of 12 finished houses, which was being expanded, was on the northern border of the field.

8. The field was occupied by about 10 twin-engine commercial aircraft and 10 to 12 biplanes.

9. The commercial airfield south of MINSK and about 3/5 mile east of the railroad line to MEST had a concrete E-T runway about 6,600 feet long and 165 feet wide. A hangar, allegedly dismantled in BERLIN-TE PEEHOP, was under construction in April 1949.

10. Flying activities varied, but generally there was little. Only twin-engine commercial aircraft were observed.

11. The field south of the railroad station of MINSK had about a 6,000-foot runway, boundary lighting facilities, buildings and a radio station.

12. Four searchlights of about 60-inch diameter and nine 37-mm AA guns resembling the German 37-mm AA guns were observed emplaced on the border of the field.

13. The following installations were seen along the railroad line to the west:

a. Two searchlight stations with large searchlights. The two searchlight stations were about four miles west of the town perimeter, about 3,000 feet north of the railroad line.

b. Four to fifteen individual 37-mm AA guns installed in wooden towers as far as 13 miles west of MINSK. A temporary emplacement of four 76.2-mm AA guns (a battery) was observed about 2½ miles west of the main railroad station, about 1,000 feet north of the railroad line. The guns were mounted on four-wheeled rubber-tired gun carriers (two loads). The pertinent tractors (three-axle trucks) were parked about 650 feet from the guns.

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